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FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 1984

Activities of the United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/72, which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), inter alia, to continue to submit to the Population Commission, on a regular basis, reports on the activities of the Fund. It examines the Fund's activities during the past two years, in particular as they relate to its efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and outreach of its programme. In anticipation of the programming needs of the 1990s, section II focuses on important recent developments that have had a direct bearing on the Fund's two-year-long review and assessment of accumulated population experience. Section III highlights the Fund's financial activities and administrative and personnel matters. Section IV examines the Fund's programme of work in family planning; information, education and communication; basic data collection; utilization of population data and population research for policy formulation and development planning; women, population and development; special programme interests; promotion of awareness; and other areas. The report concludes with a brief discussion of the nature and magnitude of the population problem and the immediate action required to address it.

* E/CN.9/1991/1.

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/72, which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), inter alia, "to continue to submit to the Population Commission, on a regular [biennial] basis, reports on the activities of the Fund" (para. 2).

2. This is the third such report from UNFPA to the Commission. The Fund's first report (E/CN.9/1987/5) provided the Commission at its twenty-fourth session with a brief summary of the mandate, basic principles and approaches that constitute the framework in which UNFPA operates. The second report (E/CN.9/1989/6), submitted to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session, highlighted important developments that had taken place in the two years since the first report. Those included, among others, the Fund's adoption of a strategy for assistance to sub-Saharan Africa and the large increase in the number of large-scale multi-year country programmes in that region; the approval by the UNDP Governing Council of UNFPA's four-year inter-country programme (1988-1991); the modification of criteria and of corresponding threshold levels in the designation of priority countries for UNFPA assistance; the Fund's continuing efforts to strengthen its system of internal and independent in-depth evaluations and to improve the utilization of the results of such evaluations; the adoption of an implementation strategy to strengthen the Fund's capacity to deal with the issues concerning women, population and development; and the conduct of a wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience in key areas within the Fund's mandate. Both the first and second reports provided a survey of the financial scope of the Fund's activities and examined UNFPA's programme of work.

3. This report examines UNFPA activities in the past two years, in particular as they relate to the Fund's efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and outreach of its programme. Section II, anticipating the programming needs of the 1990s and of the next century, focuses on important recent developments that have had a direct bearing on the Fund's capacity for substantive analysis and strategic programming. These include the completion of the Fund's two-year-long review and assessment of accumulated population experience; the convening of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century; the introduction at UNFPA of the programme review and strategy development (PRSD) exercise; the intensification of evaluation activities of UNFPA; and the development of a comprehensive management information system (MIS) at UNFPA. The third section highlights the Fund's financial activities and administrative and personnel matters. Section IV examines the UNFPA programme of work in the following categories: family planning; information, education and communication; basic data collection; utilization of population data and population research for policy formulation and development planning; women, population and development; special programme interests (youth, aging, AIDS); promotion of awareness; and other areas (policy and programme co-ordination; staff training and development; technical co-operation among developing countries). The report concludes with a brief discussion of the nature and magnitude of the population problem and the immediate action required to address it.

II. PREPARING FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

4. The past two years have been among the most fruitful in UNFPA history. The Fund's review and assessment of accumulated population experience, completed in 1989, identified the most critical population issues in the 1990s and beyond and provided a comprehensive analytical framework to guide future interventions in the population field. The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in November 1989, transformed this analytical framework into a remarkable declaration with explicit population goals and objectives and clearly defined programme priorities and approaches.

5. The past two years have also witnessed steady progress in the Fund's new programme directions, which stress substantive analysis, strategic programming and technical competence. The main objective of the new directions is a more analytical and critical approach to population programming. This requires in-depth evaluation of past experience, assessment of new and emerging needs, development of a comprehensive programme strategy to serve as a framework for setting priorities, careful formulation of programmes and projects, and creation of conditions whereby monitoring can be given adequate time and attention. The Governing Council has strongly supported such initiatives and new directions, expressing its approval at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (see, e.g., decisions 87/30 I, 14; 88/34 I, 2; 89/46 A, 2; and 90/35 A, 14). Noteworthy activities in those areas include the introduction of the programme review and strategy development exercise, the intensification of evaluation activities, and the development of a comprehensive management information system, each of which is highlighted below.

A. Review and assessment of accumulated population experience

6. The year 1989 witnessed the culmination of the two-year-long review and assessment of accumulated population experience conducted by UNFPA. The initiative, which was welcomed by the UNDP Governing Council in decision 87/30, focused on lessons learned from experiences in three sectors:

(a) Population data, policy development and planning;

(b) Maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP);

(c) Information, education and communication (IEC).

In addition, the Fund conducted reviews of the experiences in each geographical region to complement the sectoral analyses and to sharpen the assessment of factors underlying the evolution of population programmes. Moreover, in order to enhance the accuracy of the conclusions and recommendations for action emerging from the overall exercise, case studies were undertaken in Ecuador, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

7. The review and assessment exercise benefited greatly from constructive input from many and varied sources. For example, in the course of conducting the various

studies, UNFPA consulted a wide cross-section of specialists from both developed and developing countries, agencies and non-governmental organizations and convened special expert group meetings to examine early drafts of the sectoral, regional and country reports. Furthermore, in January 1989, experts from bilateral agencies, United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and selected developed and developing countries joined UNFPA in a consultation at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the principal findings and highlights of the study.

8. The policy implications of the findings and conclusions of the voluminous study (some 2,700 pages of original text) were distilled into the 25-page report which was presented to the Governing Council at its thirty-sixth session (document DP/1989/37). In view of the importance of those policy implications, the Council took a separate decision on "future needs in population, including the development of financial resource requirements for international population assistance" (decision 89/48). In that decision, the Council endorsed the general population goals and approaches for the 1990s identified in the report and requested the Executive Director to initiate, in co-operation with other institutions, as appropriate, the development of financial resource requirements for international population assistance. The Council also welcomed the convening of the International Forum, at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in November 1989, as an important step in further delineating the major issues and needs regarding population policies and programmes.

9. The review and assessment, and the sectoral, regional and country reports it spawned, were the centrepiece of that Forum and, in general, served as the basis for the recommendations set forth in the Amsterdam Declaration (see below). In fact, the impact of the review and assessment as a guide to future action is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the Declaration, which in essence translated many of its major findings into the seven main pillars for the attainment of population goals and objectives in the current decade and beyond. These are:

(a) Strengthening political commitment;

(b) Developing national strategies and programmes;

(c) Accelerating and expanding resource mobilization;

(d) Strengthening the role and status of women;

(e) Strengthening the quality, effectiveness and outreach of family planning and maternal and child health programmes and services in both the public and private sector;

(f) Heightening community awareness and participation at all levels in the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects based on priorities and needs expressed by the women and men involved;

(g) Intensifying international co-operation in the sphere of population activities, specially directed and adapted to the specific conditions, particularly socio-cultural conditions, of recipient countries.

B. International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century

10. Few events in the twenty-one-year history of UNFPA can match the dynamism or significance of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 6 to 9 November 1989. The Forum, organized by UNFPA in co-operation with the Government of the Netherlands, brought together some 250 senior government officials and population experts from around the world to discuss openly and frankly the most important population issues of the 1990s and beyond. This was done within the context of the findings and recommendations of the Fund's review and assessment of accumulated population experience (see above), as well as the UNFPA 1989 State of World Population report, "Investing in women: the focus of the nineties". Forum participants discussed ways to implement population policies and programmes more effectively and recommended strategies for mobilizing resources to support future population activities.

11. Ministers and senior officials from 79 countries participated in the Forum, as did representatives from 20 United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and six intergovernmental organizations. Observers from over 30 non-governmental organizations and 16 academic and training institutions also attended the Forum.

12. The Forum is perhaps most notable for the Declaration it produced. Entitled "A Better Life for Future Generations", the Amsterdam Declaration recommended specific population goals and objectives to be achieved by the year 2000, including, among others, an increase in family planning user-couples from the current level of 326 million to 535 million; a substantial reduction in very early marriage and in teen-age pregnancy; a reduction of infant mortality rates to at most 50 per 1,000 live births and of maternal mortality rates by at least 50 per cent, particularly in regions where maternal mortality currently exceeds 100 per 100,000 live births; and an increase in life expectancy at birth to 62 years or more for men and women in countries with high mortality.

13. The Declaration, which was adopted by acclamation, called upon all countries to increase their commitment to population policies and programmes and to contribute to the development of comprehensive population objectives and goals. The Declaration further called on all countries to make every effort to provide the financial resources necessary to reach the United Nations medium-variant population projection by the year 2000, estimated at $9 billion a year by that time, or approximately double the current level of such resources.

14. The Amsterdam Declaration was noted with appreciation by the General Assembly in resolution 44/210 of 22 December 1989. The General Assembly also requested the Executive Director to report to it in 1990, through the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council, on the Declaration's implications for population programmes and to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance. The Executive Director provided that information in document DP/1990/44, which was submitted to the Governing Council for its consideration.

1. Action taken by the Governing Council

15. The Governing Council noted with satisfaction the results of the International Forum and considered the population goals, objectives, priorities and approaches set forth in the Amsterdam Declaration to be of considerable importance and relevance to national and international endeavours in the population field and felt that they should be taken duly into account in the formulation of population policies and programmes (decision 90/35 A, 6). It also encouraged the Fund, within existing mandates, to sustain the momentum generated by the Amsterdam Forum through continued follow-up on the recommendations of the Amsterdam Forum.

16. The Council took note of the unmet and expanding resource needs for population activities as expressed in the Amsterdam Declaration and further elaborated in document DP/1990/44, and urged all Governments, concerned international and regional organizations, including the World Bank, and NGOs to make every effort to increase significantly their allocations to population activities in order to reach the target of $9 billion by the year 2000 (decision 90/35 A, 7).

17. The Council also took note of the indispensability of complementary social investments in health and education, especially for women, for the success of population programmes, as elaborated in document DP/1990/44, and with that in mind urged all Governments of developing countries to increase their political and financial commitments to investments in the social sector and all Governments of developed countries and concerned international, regional and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their financial and technical support to the areas of health and education (decision 90/35 A, 8). In a somewhat related area, the Council welcomed the willingness of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as expressed in the December 1989 policy statement by DAC aid ministers and heads of aid agencies, to help developing countries to establish, fund and implement effective population strategies and programmes as a matter of priority (decision 90/35 A, 4).

18. In the same decision, the Council encouraged UNFPA to take the steps necessary to ensure the effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/210, in which, inter alia, the Assembly stressed the importance of taking duly into account the outcome of the Amsterdam Forum in the preparations for and deliberations of all relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the proposed international meeting on population in 1994, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990, and in the preparations of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (para. 12).

2. Action taken by the General Assembly in 1990

19. Document DP/1990/44 was introduced and placed before the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990, for discussion and consideration under agenda item 9, entitled "Operational activities for development". The Council took note of the report and transmitted it to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly for its consideration. The General Assembly discussed the

report as part of its consideration of agenda item 84, "Operational activities for development".

20. The General Assembly, taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration and on efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, emphasized the importance of mobilizing and increasing the resources required for population activities. Inter alia, it urged all Governments, each according to its capacity, concerned international and regional organizations, including the World Bank, and non-governmental organizations to make every effort to mobilize the resources required for population activities, which are estimated at $9 billion per year by the year 2000, taking into account the potential for user contributions, where feasible and advisable. The General Assembly also reaffirmed the importance attached to the role of population policies in relation to development, as emphasized, inter alia, in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in Particular the Revitalization of Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199).

C. Programme review and strategy development exercise

21. As part of the Fund's increasing emphasis on improving substantive analysis and strategic programming, UNFPA introduced in 1989 the programme review and strategy development exercise, combining evaluation, needs assessment and strategy development. The exercise is a joint UNFPA/government undertaking aimed at developing a coherent framework for a national population programme. It consists of an analysis of a country's current status and needs, an assessment of achievements and constraints of past population activities, and recommendations for future action in terms of an overall national strategy. The specific objective is to reach a consensus on a comprehensive strategic framework for a country programme. Arriving at such a consensus requires the participation of governmental officials at the highest level.

22. The participation of the Government in the exercise is fundamental. The Government is directly involved in the overall and sectoral reviews of national population policies, objectives and targets or consulted extensively in the preparation of a separate background document, which is prepared in lieu of the overall or sectoral reviews. The Government is also involved in the mission itself, either in a facilitative capacity, providing information, records and internal reports, or as a member of the mission team, participating in all aspects of its work. The extent and mode of participation is agreed upon by both parties during preparatory negotiations between the Government and UNFPA.

23. The exercise, which is the first stage in the regular programming cycle at UNFPA, is intended to enhance the quality of programme formulation and implementation and to improve the system of national and international co-ordination and co-operation. The emphasis is on analytical work; the focus is

on the totality of a country's population activities rather than on individual activities. The multisectoral approach is intended to reinforce strategic planning.

24. The functions of a programme review and strategy development exercise are threefold:

(a) To assist the Government in developing and strengthening a national population programme strategy within the framework of the Government's overall development objectives;

(b) To assist the Government in becoming self-reliant in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes;

(c) To assist the Government, UNFPA and other donors in delineating their programmes for population assistance.

25. The nature and objectives of such exercises vary from country to country, depending on the level of population programming in each country. For example, in countries that are in the process of formulating national population policies and undertaking increasingly more complex population activities in various sectors, the exercise is generally geared towards strengthening policy formulation and integrating population activities into multisectoral development planning. In countries that have an explicit national population policy as well as experience in implementing a national population programme, the exercise is concerned primarily with identifying those factors that have facilitated or impeded the application of the population policy and the development of a comprehensive strategy for population programmes. In either case, the overall objective of the exercise is to design a strategic framework that is best suited to meet the needs of the country in question.

26. The Governing Council welcomed the introduction and subsequent expanded use of the programme review and strategy development exercise in decision 90/35 A, 14.

D. Evaluation activities of UNFPA

27. During 1988-1990, UNFPA continued to give increased emphasis to monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of its overall programming process. The Fund therefore continued to emphasize and expand internal evaluation activities, to focus its independent, in-depth evaluations on country and inter-country programmes and on technical areas and issues in comparative perspective, to refine the Fund's guidelines for monitoring and evaluation, and to strengthen the system for feedback and use of evaluation reports.

28. The evaluation activities of UNFPA, as reported to the Governing Council in May 1990 in document DP/1990/49, were intensified during 1988-1990 in line with the increased awareness of their usefulness as a management tool. As a result, most individual projects now include, and are starting to implement, plans not only for monitoring but for evaluation as well. These internal evaluation activities are of a great variety, ranging from self-evaluations conducted by the project management

to large-scale evaluations carried out by a team of independent consultants. Depending on the circumstances of each case, internal evaluations of individual projects are organized by the project management locally, by the executing agency, by the UNFPA office in the country, or by the respective Geographical Division at UNFPA headquarters.

29. In accordance with the plans indicated in the Fund's report on evaluation activities at the thirty-fifth session of the Council (document DP/1988/36), the focus of independent, in-depth evaluations organized by UNFPA has shifted from individual projects to country and inter-country programmes as well as technical areas and issues in a global comparative perspective.

30. Programme evaluations conducted during 1988-1990 covered both country and inter-country programmes. However, in view of the Fund's introduction in 1989 of the programme review and strategy development exercise (see above), separate country programme evaluations are no longer being undertaken. Instead, staff trained in evaluation participate in the exercise missions. Most independent programme evaluations, therefore, now involve only inter-country programmes.

31. The Fund's data base on evaluation lessons became operational in 1988. Since then, it has been considerably expanded and now includes lessons learned from all the independent, in-depth evaluations as well as from a number of internal evaluation reports. In addition to increasing the number of reports entered in the data base, UNFPA has updated the classification system used in the data base in light of the experience acquired.

32. The trends in evaluation activities established during the present reporting period will continue in the near future. Monitoring and evaluation as a regular and integral part of programme and project activities will remain a major feature of UNFPA's programming process. The Fund will continue to organize independent, in-depth evaluations, but mainly of inter-country programmes and thematic issues. However, UNFPA headquarters will organize fewer such evaluations than in the past in view of the expanding use of PRSD exercises.

33. During 1988-1990, UNFPA conducted evaluations of country programmes in Burkina Faso, the Congo, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zaire and Zimbabwe in sub-Saharan Africa; Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam in Asia and the Pacific; Albania, Morocco and Tunisia in Europe and the Middle East; and Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Fund also evaluated the inter-country programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization/Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) and the WHO/Regional Office for Africa (AFRO).

34. UNFPA conducted separate evaluations of the population programmes of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as well as of the UNFPA-funded Global Programme of Training in Population Development. Comparative evaluations were undertaken of training in maternal and child health and family planning; population and development (comprising a global report and four regional reports - Asia and the

Pacific; sub-Saharan Africa; Arab States; Latin America and the Caribbean); management information systems in maternal and child health and family planning programmes; and family planning education and services for newly-weds.

35. At its thirty-seventh session, the Governing Council took note with satisfaction of the Executive Director's report on the evaluation activities of UNFPA (DP/1990/49), recognized the usefulness of such activities as both a management and information tool, welcomed the introduction and expanded use of the programme and strategy exercise, and encouraged the expanded use of the Lessons Learned Data-base. The Council also requested that UNFPA distribute copies of evaluation reports to interested parties upon request (decision 90/35 A, 14).

E. Office automation and management information system

36. The increasing emphasis on strategic planning, needs assessment and evaluation in programme review and strategy development exercises requires a greater understanding on the part of UNFPA staff of population issues and activities at the country level, which in turn requires timely access to up-to-date statistical and qualitative data. The most effective and efficient means of providing such access is through the development of a comprehensive management information system, which UNFPA began in 1988.

37. The purpose of UNFPA's office automation and management information system is to enhance the Fund's ability to deliver population assistance by improving its administrative efficiency and ability to monitor and evaluate programmes and projects. The office automation plan approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-sixth session (1989) is designed, when fully implemented, to improve staff productivity and efficiency by, inter alia, providing staff with the means to access financial and substantive information, by computerizing inventory and procurement procedures, and by providing technical and programme staff with more effective tools to analyse data, set targets and devise forecasts.

38. The priorities of the UNFPA office automation and management information system are:

(a) To rationalize the Fund's financial monitoring system and to develop a substantive data base during the 1992-1993 biennium;

(b) To provide computer equipment and training to all staff;

(c) To improve the Fund's word-processing system;

(d) To automate daily office operations.

UNFPA informed the Governing Council on the tasks undertaken and the progress made in those priority areas in the implementation of the strategy in document DP/1990/51.

39. One of the primary objectives of UNFPA's office automation strategy has been to establish a management information system infrastructure. During 1989, UNFPA

began to develop the organizational structure for its Management Information System Unit based on the day-to-day needs of the Fund. This involved assessing the personnel and equipment needs of the Unit and filling those needs as quickly as possible. At the same time, the Fund began to prepare the policies and procedures concerning the use of the Fund's management information system, in particular the management and use of the Fund's personal computer local area network (PC-LAN), which functions as the nerve centre for UNFPA's day-to-day programme operations.

40. Another important step taken was the establishment of office automation standards for both the field offices and headquarters, notably concerning the PC hardware and software to be used throughout the Fund. In so doing, UNFPA took special care to ensure that its equipment and systems were compatible with those of the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP. A major activity in 1990 has been the procurement of computer equipment and software for UNFPA field offices. The goal is to provide field offices with access to all data bases at headquarters. Such access should be available in most field offices by the end of 1991.

41. In developing its management information systems, UNFPA has focused on providing staff with basic systems to help manage programme and project data. As a result, UNFPA staff can now access pipeline and pending project allocation figures and monitor the status of project approvals from decentralized sources. The Fund is also developing and expanding various data bases, including a population indicators' data base, consisting of population estimates and demographic indicators published by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (United Nations Secretariat); a data base on lessons learned from evaluations; and a data base related to gender considerations in UNFPA-funded projects. The aim of those efforts is the implementation of a system capable of providing accurate, timely and integrated data on programme and project activities and allowing for the aggregation of project and programme data at the field and headquarters level.

III. FINANCIAL SCOPE OF UNFPA ACTIVITIES

A. Financial highlights

42. Total income for the period 1988-1989 continued to expand, surpassing $363 million for the biennium. Total projected income for the 1990-1991 biennium is projected at $445 million - $210 million for 1990 and $235 million for 1991, which is some $20.8 million higher than the $424.2 million estimate presented to the Council the previous year, in document DP/1990/47.

43. Total income in 1989 increased by $7.2 million or 4.0 per cent over the 1988 income of $178.0 million and by $29.1 million or 18.6 per cent over the 1987 income of $156.1 million. Total contributions pledged by 98 Governments in 1989 reached $180.7 million, an increase of $13.4 million in dollar terms or 8.0 per cent over contributions of $167.3 million in 1988. Interest income in 1989 amounted to $7.3 million or 3.9 per cent of total income. Reductions in income due to adjustments on revaluation of currencies and gains/losses on exchange, as well as other miscellaneous adjustments, totalled $2.8 million. As required by financial rule 104.2, all payments of voluntary contributions were recorded in United States

dollars at the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment.

44. Total expenditures in 1989 were $203.5 million, an increase of $36.3 million or 21.7 per cent compared to 1988 expenditures and an increase of $63.0 million or 44.8 per cent compared to 1987 expenditures. Programme expenditures in 1989, which amounted to $157.4 million, constituted 77.3 per cent of the total expenditures, compared to 77.6 per cent in 1988 and 76.2 per cent in 1987.

45. In 1989, the United Nations executing agencies, including regional commissions, executed projects amounting to $88.3 million compared to $68.8 million in 1988 and $60.8 million in 1987. Governments executed $22.4 million in 1989, compared to $14.1 million in 1988 and $21.3 million in 1987, with the assistance of UNFPA field offices. UNFPA-executed projects totalled $26.9 million in 1989, compared to $28.6 million in 1988 and $10.3 million in 1987, and included procurement assistance in respect to Governments' projects amounting to $19.7 million in 1989. Programme expenditures for projects executed by NGOs and other agencies, such as intergovernmental institutions and academic and research centres, were $19.8 million in 1989, compared to $18.3 million in 1988 and $14.6 million in 1987.

B. Administration and personnel

46. As of 1 January 1990, in accordance with Governing Council decisions 85/20 of June 1985, 86/35 of June 1986, 87/31 of June 1987, 88/36 of June 1988 and 89/49 of June 1989, the total number of authorized budget posts numbered 696, comprising 169 Professional and 527 General Service staff. These included 102 Professional and 132 General Service posts at headquarters, 2 Professional and 2 General Service posts in Geneva and 63 Professional and 395 local General Service posts in the field.

47. The percentage of women on UNFPA's Professional staff at headquarters and in the field reached 39.5 per cent, one of the highest percentages among United Nations agencies and organizations. UNFPA expects to maintain at level in the coming year.

IV. UNFPA PROGRAMME OF WORK

48. UNFPA classifies the projects it supports according to a work-plan system drawn up by the Inter-Agency ACC Sub-Committee on Population. The system, which has been modified slightly to accommodate UNFPA programming needs, is composed of the following principal categories: family planning; information, education and communication; basic data collection; population dynamics; formulation and evaluation of population policies and programmes; implementation of policies; and special programmes (aging, youth, AIDS). Owing to the importance of the status and role of women to the success of population programmes, UNFPA has created a separate category for "women, population and development" and considers it as one of its priority programme areas. The following subsections examine the work of the Fund

according to the sequence of priority areas directed by the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session (1981) session (decision 81/7 I, 3).

A. Family planning

49. The importance of family planning both as an integral component of health care and as a method to reduce fertility was emphasized in the Amsterdam Declaration. The Declaration also stressed the need to expand research on contraceptive technology as well as on the determinants of fertility and family planning attitudes and behaviour.

50. During the period 1969-1989, UNFPA assistance in this area reached $821.5 million, or 46.2 per cent of total assistance. In 1989, UNFPA assistance to family planning totalled $89.8 million or 46.3 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to expenditures of $67.9 million or 52.4 per cent in 1988. The breakdown of 1989 allocations by region was as follows: sub-Saharan Africa, $18.6 million; Arab States and Europe, $8.6 million; Asia and the Pacific, $40.6 million; and Latin America and the Caribbean, $12.8 million. The remaining $9.3 million was for interregional and global programmes.

51. Each region tailored its family planning programmes to meet its most pressing needs. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, nearly half of UNFPA's assistance to this sector in 1989 was used to develop training programmes for rural health workers, traditional birth attendants and nurse/midwives in such areas as family planning techniques and family planning communication and motivation. UNFPA also supported efforts to develop and improve statistical systems on maternal and child health and family planning services, as well as operations research on family systems and traditional beliefs in different cultural and socio-economic settings. Training of health personnel in various aspects of maternal and child health and family planning also received considerable attention in the Arab States region. UNFPA assistance to Arab States also sought to improve the quality, coverage and capacity of health centres throughout the region to deliver family planning and maternal and child health care services.

52. In the Asia and Pacific region, the maternal and child health and family planning sector continued to receive the largest amount of support in country programmes, accounting for some 58 per cent of UNFPA resources for the region. The Fund's programmes again concentrated on improving and expanding maternal and child health and family planning services, particularly to rural or remote areas; establishing facilities to produce contraceptives locally; expanding the supply and distribution of contraceptives; and encouraging the use of temporary methods of contraception. UNFPA-supported maternal and child health and family planning activities in the Latin America and Caribbean region were carried out in 35 countries. Such programmes focused on, among other things, providing contraceptives and medicines, training medical and paramedical personnel, community workers and traditional birth attendants, and addressing the special needs of adolescents.

53. During 1989, UNFPA supported more than 500 country and inter-country family planning projects, approximately two thirds of which were in Africa and the Asia

and Pacific regions. In addition to providing technical assistance to maternal and child health and family planning training programmes in all regions, UNFPA participated in technical missions to Algeria, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nepal. In Nepal, the Fund helped to develop model family planning training programmes for village health workers and nurses at maternal and child health and family planning clinics and hospitals in two regions. In India, the mission assisted the Government in formulating a strategy for comprehensive training programmes for village health workers and nurses in two states in order to improve maternal and child health and family planning services there. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNFPA included in its new programme of assistance a major component focusing on the training of rural midwives. The mission to Algeria, noting the need for better training programmes in family planning, recommended that UNFPA continue to provide technical assistance as necessary.

54. UNFPA continued to provide support, primarily through its interregional programme, to improve contraceptive technologies, supporting the WHO/Human Reproduction Programme research activities, the Population Council and the International Organization for Chemical Science in Development. UNFPA also continued to support the Population Council's programme to introduce NORPLANT contraceptive subdermal implants in 12 selected countries, as well as the efforts of the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology to provide technical assistance in packaging and distributing local contraceptive products and in establishing facilities for the production of such products locally.

55. During 1989 and 1990, UNFPA participated actively in inter-agency collaborative endeavours. For example, the Fund participated in regular inter-agency follow-up meetings on activities related to the Safe Motherhood Initiative and Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning. Moreover, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF intensified programme and policy collaboration, stressing common goals and field-level joint activities in the maternal and child health and family planning area. UNFPA and WHO further collaborated on a review of the inter-country projects funded by UNFPA and executed by WHO, and discussed future plans to provide the countries concerned with technical backstopping in maternal and child health and family planning.

56. In accordance with Governing Council decision 89/46 A, 22, of 30 June 1989, UNFPA undertook a study of the Fund's current expenditures for contraceptives, its estimate of the contraceptive requirements of developing countries during the remainder of the 1990s, and its specific plans to take account of the increasing demands for contraceptive commodities, including the resources required and the programme implications. The Executive Director will submit a detailed report on those topics to the Council at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991.

B. Information, education and communication

57. During the period 1969-1989, UNFPA assistance in this area totalled $230.4 million, or 12.9 per cent of total assistance. UNFPA assistance for information, education and communication activities in 1989 totalled $32.7 million, or 16.8 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $18.9 million or 14.5 per cent of expenditures in 1988.

58. During 1989-1990, in view of the importance of information, education and communication as an integral component of a country's population programme, UNFPA focused considerable attention on developing information, education and communication strategies for country programming exercises in Angola, Albania, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, India, Mexico, and the Syrian Arab Republic. Working closely with the Governments in each of those countries, UNFPA programme review and strategy development missions helped to clarify national population objectives in the information, education and communication sector, identify key target groups within the population, select the most appropriate channels of communications to be used, and design the content of the information and education messages. UNFPA provided similar assistance to the state governments of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh in India in support of their efforts to re-orient their population communication activities in 1989.

59. Throughout 1989, many UNFPA-assisted projects employed new and innovative approaches to information, education and communication. For example, in the Comoros, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines and Thailand, UNFPA applied lessons learned from socio-cultural research in developing appropriate information messages, in particular as concerns various methods of contraception. The Fund also used social marketing techniques to disseminate information about family planning services, including the different types of contraceptives available, within the framework of family planning projects in Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico and Thailand.

60. Other innovative projects included, among others:

(a) The use of modern communications technology such as videotape and computer graphics to reach groups with low levels of literacy in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Thailand and Viet Nam;

(b) The design of special activities to educate adolescents as to how to deal with reproductive health issues and AIDS prevention in Jamaica, Mexico, Thailand and Zambia;

(c) The examination of educational approaches used in Indonesia, Mexico and the Philippines to reach newly married couples in order to identify the best ways of working with that important group;

(d) The integration of the safe motherhood concept into population information, education and communication programmes in order to mobilize public support for improving the health of women and for lowering maternal mortality rates, both through family planning.

UNFPA also provided support to UNESCO to review the various approaches and methodologies used by population communicators with different backgrounds, in order to facilitate collaboration in field work.

61. An important area of UNFPA concern in 1989-1990 was training in information, education and communication. UNFPA, therefore, conducted or sponsored assessments of training facilities at several institutions in both developed and developing

countries in terms of their potential for providing effective training of country project staff in the development of information, education and communication strategies, the planning of activities and the production of audio-visual materials for population education and communication. Another important UNFPA activity during the year was its contribution to the drafting of an action plan to assess communication needs in support of development in Africa in the 1990s, which was conducted under the work programme of the Steering Committee for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

62. UNFPA again expanded its activities in the area of non-formal population education, which is essential in reaching the large number of school drop-outs and unschooled youth, particularly girls and women, with information on various health and family planning issues. Agricultural extension programmes, home economics courses, co-operatives, young farmers' associations, and women's clubs have all served as vehicles for the introduction of population education in rural areas. Working closely with FAO, UNFPA provided assistance for the integration of population and family life education and communication components into rural development programmes and agricultural extension systems in Cameroon, Jamaica, Kenya and Lesotho.

C. Basic data collection

63. During the period 1969-1989, UNFPA assistance in this area totalled $234.5 million, or 13.2 per cent of total assistance. In 1989, UNFPA assistance to basic data collection totalled $21.1 million, or 10.9 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $13.0 million, or 10.0 per cent of expenditures in 1988.

64. The UNFPA review and assessment exercise (see above) confirmed the positive impact UNFPA assistance has had on improving the capabilities and capacities of national statistical offices in developing countries to collect, tabulate, analyse and disseminate population data. The Amsterdam Declaration underscored the importance of continuing such assistance, noting that "an increase in efforts to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data in population policy and programme planning" was "among the critical basic activities needed in planning for the attainment of (national population) goals" for the coming decade and beyond.

65. In 1989, UNFPA allocated $17.2 million in support of 74 country projects under the 1990 round of population censuses. Over $13.5 million, or 78.5 per cent, of this assistance went for technical assistance, including $1.74 million for services of international experts and consultants, $3.37 million for training, and $8.4 million for equipment. The majority of UNFPA assistance to population censuses went to activities in Africa, where 33 country projects received a total allocation of $7.1 million, or 41.5 per cent of UNFPA allocations for census activities in 1989. In Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA allocated $6.9 million in 1989 for 14 census projects. Approximately $6.1 million, or 88.4 per cent, went for technical assistance. In the Arab States and Europe, the Fund supported seven census projects, with an allocation of $1.2 million, $0.92 million of which went for technical assistance. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA supported 20 census projects with an allocation of $1.95 million. Approximately 86 per cent of that amount was used to provide technical assistance.

66. During 1989, UNFPA allocated $2.1 million to conduct population sample surveys through 20 country projects: 6 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean ($0.79 million); 7 projects in Asia and the Pacific ($0.52 million); 5 projects in the Arab States and Europe ($0.36 million); 2 projects in Africa ($0.38 million). Moreover, UNFPA continued to support the joint Pan-Arab child and maternal health survey covering the Gulf States and six other countries in the Arab region, co-funding it with the Arab Gulf Fund, the League of Arab States, UNICEF, WHO, and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

67. In 1989, UNFPA allocated $2.0 million in support of 20 projects to establish or strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems in three regions: 11 projects in Africa ($0.93 million); 5 projects in the Arab States and Europe ($0.65 million); and 4 projects in Asia and the Pacific ($0.43 million). UNFPA also continued to provide support for demographic analysis and training, extending $15.5 million to 51 projects. Of these, 23 projects were in Africa ($4.57 million); 14 in the Arab States and Europe ($3.5 million); 6 in Asia and the Pacific ($6.5 million); and 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean ($0.93 million).

68. UNFPA assistance not only helped to make essential population data available for use in effective promotion of awareness, formulation of population policies and programmes, and integration of population into development planning, but, more importantly, it also served to strengthen national capacity and self-reliance in most developing countries to plan, design, implement, evaluate, analyse, and disseminate quality population data in a timely and usable fashion. Such strengthening of national capacity will have the added advantage of facilitating the co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance in the area of basic data collection and analysis, which remains a priority for UNFPA, particularly as the 1990 round of population censuses takes place.

D. Utilization of population data and population research for policy formulation and development planning

69. During the period 1969-1989, UNFPA assistance to population dynamics totalled $424.3 million, or 23.4 per cent of total assistance; to formulation, evaluation and implementation of population policies, $115.6 million, or 6.5 per cent of total assistance. In 1989, UNFPA assistance to population dynamics totalled $24.2 million, or 12.5 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $14.7 million, or 11.4 per cent of expenditures in 1988. To formulation and evaluation of population policies and programmes it totalled $13.3 million, or 6.8 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $9.3 million, or 7.2 per cent of expenditures in 1988.

70. UNFPA assistance in this area aims at developing the most suitable methodological approaches and techniques for policy formulation and development planning; strengthening national technical capacities and support research and studies; and setting up the institutional arrangements required for the formulation and implementation of population policies and for the integration of population factors into socio-economic development planning.

71. The main activities to which UNFPA provided support during 1989 included studies on the social and economic consequences of population trends; the interrelationship between population, environment, resources and development; the formulation and evaluation of population policies; and the integration of population factors into national development plans. Moreover, the Fund continued to organize training courses, at the global, interregional, regional, and country levels, on various aspects of demography and on the interrelationship between population and development. In 1990, UNFPA also organized a brainstorming meeting on the role of socio-cultural research in population programmes. The findings and recommendations of that meeting will be included in a Programme Advisory Note, which is currently being prepared.

72. As part of its continuing efforts to promote the integration of population factors into development planning, in 1989 UNFPA provided $14.8 million to such activities at the country, regional and interregional levels. The Fund again devoted the largest portion of its assistance to this sector to help establish or strengthen population units within the framework of national socio-economic development planning.

73. UNFPA continued to support a variety of research activities at the interregional, regional and national levels, providing a total of $4.9 million in 1989 for such activities. The research at the interregional and regional levels, as in the past, was undertaken to clarify concepts and develop methodological techniques. That undertaken at the country level was oriented more towards operations and programmes. In 1989, UNFPA-funded research at the interregional level, carried out mainly by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, FAO and ILO, focused on the interrelationship between socio-economic development and population variables; population and rural development; the demographic consequences of development projects; and the integration of population factors into development planning. Research at the country level, continuing the trend of the two previous years, examined population growth and trends; determinants and consequences of migration; migration and employment; and human resource development.

E. Women, population and development

74. In 1989, UNFPA assistance in the area of women, population and development totalled $5.9 million, or 3.1 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $1.9 million, or 1.5 per cent of expenditures in 1988.

1. Implementation of strategy

75. Implementation of UNFPA's strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development continued vigorously in 1989. As a result, all of the activities outlined in the strategy's 1989 work plan were successfully carried out. The strategy, which is now an integral part of the Fund's strategic programming efforts, has been instrumental in heightening awareness among UNFPA field and headquarters staff of the linkages between

improvement in the status of women and the achievements of other objectives of population and development programmes.

76. Following a mid-term review of the implementation of the strategy, UNFPA submitted to the Governing Council at its thirty-sixth session (1989) a detailed status report (DP/1989/38), which the Council noted with appreciation. The review, which drew mainly on information about activities undertaken at the field level, covered the first two years of the strategy's four-year work plan (1987-1990). As a result of the review, UNFPA was able to identify priority areas for future action at the field level, as well as to chart the future direction the Fund should take to implement the strategy and other policies aimed at enhancing the status of women, both in society and in development.

77. During 1989-1990, UNFPA continued to place increasing emphasis on "mainstreaming" women into all areas of UNFPA programming. This has been facilitated greatly by the programme review and strategy development exercise (see above), which also provides an excellent modality for creating awareness of the role of women in development. Indeed the discussions with high-level policy makers during programme review and strategy development missions offer excellent opportunities for experts to emphasize the links between the status of women and the achievement of overall development objectives.

2. Training

78. During 1989-1990, UNFPA paid special attention to training for its field staff, regional technical advisers, national counterparts and governmental officials on issues of special importance in the area of women, population and development. Training workshops were organized in the Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions. The purpose was to familiarize the participants with the conceptual aspects of incorporating women's concerns and needs into population and development programmes; and to provide the participants with the practical and technical skills required for gender-sensitive programming and project development, implementation and evaluation.

79. In order to enhance collaboration with other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, UNFPA helped organize regional training workshops on women in development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminars were conducted under the auspices of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, in partnership with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). Another joint training workshop took place in May 1989 in Santiago, Chile. That workshop, conducted in Spanish, was held for senior field staff and national counterparts in charge of population and development programmes in the South American continent.

80. As part of its training activities for the benefit of national counterparts, the Fund carried out extensive consultations with several institutions of higher education. The purpose of those consultations was to review existing courses on women in development in order to gauge their practical usefulness for those involved in activities aimed at the advancement of women; and to identify ways and

means of preparing relevant training courses for those involved in population policy and programme development or with project execution at the community level. As a result of the consultations, the University of Reading in the United Kingdom and the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands now offer specific fellowship programmes for candidates from developing countries.

3. Monitoring

81. As part of the Fund's systematic efforts to monitor the implementation of its policies and strategies in order to improve the development and delivery of programmes and projects, UNFPA undertook a review during 1989 as a means of ascertaining the extent to which independent, in-depth evaluations of UNFPA-supported programmes and projects adhered to the UNFPA Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Women's Dimension in Fund-assisted Programmes. The general findings of the review, which focused on project, programme, inter-country and comparative evaluations carried out since February 1986, underscored the following needs:

(a) To sharpen the focus on the women's dimension in the terms of reference for evaluation missions;

(b) To require that the women's dimension be included in evaluation reports;

(c) To identify the sources of shortcomings in the evaluated programmes;

(d) To provide practical and concrete approaches aimed at reflecting women's concerns more effectively in the programmes.

82. The project reviews begun in 1988 continued in 1989; those in Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Paraguay, Zaire, and Zambia had been completed. The purpose of the reviews is to document the achievements as well as the constraints in project implementation regarding the incorporation of gender-specific issues. In 1989, the Fund published and disseminated the project review reports in order to provide staff, national counterparts, regional advisers and consultants with information based on practical experiences at the project level. UNFPA has also initiated, in collaboration with UNDP, the preparation of a series of "country profiles". They provide extensive statistical data and detailed information on various socio-economic and demographic factors relating to the status of women. Additional information provided in the profiles includes legislation concerning women's rights and responsibilities, the activities of women's organizations, and the level of participation of women in the national development process, including decision-making at all levels. So far, UNFPA has prepared 25 such country profiles, mainly on UNFPA priority countries.

F. Special programme interests

83. In 1989, UNFPA assistance in the area of special programme interests totalled $1.6 million, or 0.8 per cent of total programme allocations, compared to $3.2 million, or 2.5 per cent of expenditures in 1988. During the period 1969-1989,

UNFPA assistance in that area totalled $35.3 million, or 2.0 per cent of total assistance.

1. Youth

84. During 1989, UNFPA-supported projects aimed at youth focused on the areas of population and family life education, communication and family planning. Among the UNFPA activities specifically addressed to the concerns of youth in 1989 were family life education for youth in Indonesia and training for youth in home management and family welfare in Samoa. UNFPA also provided assistance to the Marshall Islands to support the second phase of a population and family welfare information, education and communication project for youth.

85. An area of major importance to UNFPA is the reproductive behaviour and health of adolescents and youth. In 1989, the Fund, therefore, increased its support for programmes addressing the fertility-related needs of youth, in particular of young women, providing assistance for reproductive health programmes for youth in Suriname and Uruguay, as well as for a survey on adolescent fertility, reproductive behaviour and employment in Ethiopia. Moreover, with a view towards increasing the participation of youth in population activities, UNFPA supported interregional projects that rely on peer counselling to promote sound reproductive health practices among adolescents.

2. Question of aging

86. UNFPA financial assistance and the number of projects supported in the field of aging have increased steadily in recent years. Within its policy guidelines, UNFPA, working closely with other United Nations organizations and institutions involved in the field of aging and the elderly, provided assistance in 1989 to eight projects, totalling $0.67 million. Those projects have helped to increase the awareness of policy makers and strengthen the capability of developing countries to understand the causes and implications of population aging and its interrelationship with socio-economic development.

87. During 1989-1990, UNFPA supported a wide range of aging-related projects addressing different substantive issues. For example, the Fund continued to support the interregional project "Population aging, old age security and social and economic policies", executed by ILO. The aim of the project is to promote the formulation of policies that take into consideration the implications of population aging for fertility, social services for the elderly, the economy and the labour market. UNFPA also supported the regional project "Analysis of economic and social consequences of changing population structure in Europe", executed by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The purpose of the project is to provide developing ECE countries with a better understanding of the implications of emerging changes in the population structure and to encourage them to accommodate such changes in their planning processes. Also at the regional level, UNFPA supported the project "Emerging issues on aging population in selected ESCAP countries", to assess alternative policies and programmes to deal with anticipated problems related to the changing age structure in the light of socio-economic development.

3. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

88. During 1989, UNFPA continued to collaborate with WHO in line with the global strategy set forth by the WHO Global Programme on AIDS as well as with other organizations such as UNICEF. Some of the most important projects to which the Fund has been asked to contribute entail supplementing ongoing UNFPA-supported maternal and child health and family planning and information, education and communication programmes with components specifically addressed to AIDS prevention and control. As a result, UNFPA has integrated special components on AIDS into maternal and child health and family planning and/or information, education and communication projects in several countries, including Benin, Cameroon and Liberia. The demand for condoms has increased in some countries, as requests for AIDS coverage have been added to regular family planning programmes. In Haiti, for instance, condoms were distributed to high-risk groups by a local non-governmental organization as an activity within the framework of a maternal and child health and family planning project. Moreover, the UNFPA field office in Kenya approved a two-year project aimed at developing information, education and communication strategies and materials in the prevention and control of AIDS. Plans are also under way in a number of countries to develop specific AIDS-related projects in the light of each country's particular needs.

89. In early 1991, UNFPA will have completed an inventory of current activities and prospective projects on AIDS, the objective being to obtain an overview of projects through 1989 and to plan for future needs in project support. The Fund also expects that a parallel activity in socio-cultural research for family planning will also focus on AIDS-related issues from a socio-cultural perspective.

90. An important area of concern for the Fund has been the need to promote awareness among those responsible for the leadership and co-ordination of the national AIDS efforts of the need to integrate AIDS prevention activities into maternal and child health and family planning networks. This is necessary because such leaders are commonly staff members of epidemiology departments dealing with transmittable diseases and thus have not worked closely with maternal and child health and family planning units. UNFPA has achieved some progress in that area both in terms of maintaining an adequate flow of communication with those leaders and in some cases by incorporating maternal and child health and family planning units into ministerial AIDS co-ordinating bodies.

91. A second area of concentration has been the formulation of procedures and guidelines for the integration of maternal and child health and family planning and AIDS activities. The preparation of separate guidelines for integrating maternal and child health and AIDS activities, as well as for integrating family planning and AIDS activities, has been facilitated as a result of the secondment of a UNFPA staff member to the Global Programme on AIDS.

92. With regard to the demographic impact of AIDS, work by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

Secretariat continues with support from UNFPA. In December 1989, the Population Division organized a meeting to compare various methodologies in order to assess their respective advantages and disadvantages. The meeting helped to increase the understanding of current demographic modelling exercises and provided a useful opportunity for modellers and potential users of the models to interact and to help ensure that research efforts would be relevant to the needs of planners.

G. Promotion of awareness

93. The promotion of awareness, both in developed and developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems is one of the aims and purposes of UNFPA, as mandated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV) and reaffirmed in Council resolution 1986/7. In pursuit of that objective, in December 1987, UNFPA devised an information strategy aimed at:

(a) Promoting a continuing dialogue and exchange of information on population and related development issues;

(b) Promoting greater awareness and understanding of UNFPA's activities;

(c) Providing information support to national population and development programmes;

(d) Assisting in resource development.

The strategy was presented to the Governing Council as an integral part of the Fund's interregional programme for 1988-1991 (DP/1988/37), which the Council approved in decision 88/34 C, 3.

94. In recent years, the Fund's State of World Population report has become an important vehicle in implementing this strategy. The report, which has been UNFPA's major communications media exercise during the year, is an original, well-researched commentary on an important aspect of world population, focusing on a theme of topical interest. The report has been successful in attracting media attention not only to the specific issues addressed in the report but also more generally, to the Fund and its activities. Known media response to the report has grown from just over 100 newspapers and radio and television networks in 1978 to well over 1,000 media organizations in 1990. Moreover, the packet of feature stories accompanying each report has been widely used in developing countries to disseminate information on population and related issues.

95. The Fund's 1989 State of World Population report, entitled "Investing in women: the focus of the nineties", was widely acclaimed and received widespread attention in the world media. The report was translated into 22 languages, including such major Asian languages as Hindi and Bahasa Indonesia, which considerably enhanced its impact. The Governing Council noted the report with satisfaction and endorsed its recommendations and goals in decision 89/46 A, 11. These included numerous recommendations in such areas as documenting and publicizing women's vital contribution to development, increasing productivity and lessening the double burden of women, providing family planning services, improving

the health of women, expanding the education of girls and women, and ensuring equality of opportunity.

96. The theme of the report was taken up in a video released at the time of publication, Women: Key to the Future, which was widely used by television stations and by field offices in special promotions. Women in Africa were the subject of another video, Elsy and Irene, which has stimulated discussion and comment wherever it has been shown. Three short videos made from the same footage have also proved popular and effective.

97. The 1990 State of World Population report, entitled "Choices for the new century", focused on the population decisions that will be needed in the next 10 years in order to avoid environmental catastrophe and secure sustainable development in the twenty-first century. The report stressed the need for a three-pronged approach: a shift to cleaner technologies, energy efficiency and resource conservation by all countries, but especially the wealthier quarter of the world's population; a direct and all-out attack on poverty itself; and reduction in overall rates of population growth.

98. The reaction world-wide to the 1990 report exceeded all expectations. Virtually every major newspaper in developed and developing countries covered the report. The report also was the subject of considerable discussion at the thirty-seventh session (1990) of the Governing Council. The Council noted the report with appreciation and agreed with the report "that population growth and distribution factors play a key role in safeguarding the environment and fostering development; that human resource development should receive a high degree of attention in the Fourth Development Decade; and that efforts in family planning, women's advancement, health and education are mutually reinforcing and should be pursued in parallel" (decision 90/35 A, 16).

99. The major video event of 1989 was the premiere of Without Borders, a special presentation of Turner Broadcasting System, for which UNFPA acted as co-producer. The theme of Without Borders was the interaction of population and the environment, the subject-matter of UNFPA's 1988 State of World Population report, "Safeguarding the future". The programme was shown twice on Turner Broadcasting System's cable network in the United States and was shown by television stations world-wide through the good offices of Intelsat. The programme has won several prizes for its production team.

100. The most celebrated population event in 1990 was World Population Day, which was observed on 11 July in over 90 countries throughout the world. The Governing Council recommended that the international community observe World Population Day "in order to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes and the need to find solutions for these issues" (decision 89/46 A, 21). The Council selected 11 July in honour of the "Day of 5 billion" celebration, which took place on the same date in 1987. The Day was celebrated across the globe with speeches and rallies; seminars, workshops and symposia on population and development issues; radio and television programmes; films, including the UNFPA film specially produced for the Day, "Population: the challenge ahead"; news conferences; and special exhibitions,

among many other events. It is planned to continue observing World Population Day on an annual basis.

101. UNFPA's monthly newsletter Population and the quarterly journal Populi both featured environment/population linkages during 1989 and 1990. Both also continued to focus on important developments in the areas of women, population and development. Population's general coverage continued to emphasize aspects of the UNFPA programme, while Populi dealt at more length with issues of general concern, including major features on various aspects of family planning, on AIDS in Africa, on people and nature, and on human effects of climate change, among many others. UNFPA also published its regular Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World in 1989, the Global Population Assistance Report, 1982-1988 and Meeting the Population Challenge, which was based on the Fund's review and assessment of accumulated population experience. The Global Population Assistance Report, 1982-1989 is in press.

102. The Governing Council acknowledged the accomplishments of the Fund's information strategy, welcoming "the important contribution of UNFPA publications and other public information efforts in promoting awareness, both in developed and developing countries, of population issues and their social, economic and environmental implications" (decision 90/35 A, 17).

H. Other aspects

1. Policy and programme co-ordination

103. In 1989, policy and programme co-ordination continued to play a special role in UNFPA's activities world-wide. Various initiatives were pursued together with other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, with bilateral donors and with organizations in the non-governmental sector. The Amsterdam Declaration called upon UNFPA "to act as a focal point and facilitator for channeling and co-ordinating expanded levels of international population assistance to recipient countries".

104. In adjusting its programming procedures to accommodate evolving needs in the population field, UNFPA continues to place particular attention on increasing collaboration. Consequently, all new country programmes seek not only to promote collaborative efforts with other organizations, but to harmonize programming cycles with other donors as well. Most important, UNFPA takes special care to ensure that the strategies and approaches used in its programmes complement those of other donors. Indeed, in keeping with Governing Council decision 90/35 A, 10, the Fund is placing increasing emphasis on collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank, among others.

105. In 1989-1990, the Fund continued to participate actively in the ongoing work of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. UNFPA assumed chairmanship of the Group's working group on Women in Development and was closely involved in such other Group efforts as programme harmonization, structural adjustment, training of personnel, programme collaboration in Africa and sharing common premises and

services. In the context of the WID working group, the Group successfully organized another of its series of staff training seminars, this time for the Latin America region, held in association with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Latin American Demographic Centre (ECLAC/CELADE) in Santiago, Chile.

2. Staff training and development

106. In line with the Fund's increasing emphasis on quality programming and enhanced substantive knowledge, the staff training and development programme seeks to strengthen four substantive areas of UNFPA's work: maternal child health and family planning; information, education and communication; the interrelationship between population and development; and women, population and development. The programme also focuses on improving management and supervisory skills; enhancing programme appraisal, monitoring and evaluation skills; developing computer and language skills; and providing orientation and training for UNDP resident representatives in their capacity as UNFPA representatives.

107. Core training activities for 1989 included workshops for field staff on programme policies and procedures; for programme staff on basic population concepts, measures and applications; for field staff on financial, administration and personnel policies and procedures; for all staff on electronic data-processing applications; and for all programme staff on women, population and development. Field Staff Orientation and Training Workshops, held at UNFPA headquarters in October 1989 and September 1990, were attended by new UNFPA country directors and national programme officers and programme assistants. The workshops emphasized UNFPA's goals, mandate, organizational policies and procedures relating to programme planning, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation, and the role and purpose of field staff in relation to UNFPA's work.

108. Training activities at UNFPA intensified during 1990. A major activity during the year was the preparation of field office training plans, with nearly all UNFPA field offices submitting such plans to headquarters for review and approval. The Fund continued to expand its use of training workshops, organizing workshops for UNFPA country directors and headquarters programme officers and focusing on such topics as management training and basic population indicators, among others. UNFPA also held a series of training workshops for all UNFPA staff on the Fund's new Performance Appraisal Review system, which is to go into effect on 1 January 1991. The two-day workshop focused on management training techniques and implementation of the PAR system.

3. Technical co-operation among developing countries

109. UNFPA continues to view technical co-operation among developing countries as an important dimension in development co-operation and as an important mechanism in promoting self-reliance over the long term. Each year during its 11 years of continuing support for technical co-operation among developing countries, the Fund has allocated increasingly larger portions of its regular programme resources to

activities specially designed to help build up the capacities of developing countries to make use of the technical co-operation among developing countries modality in responding to their needs in population and family planning. UNFPA's experience has shown that the voluntary sharing and exchange of skills and knowledge among developing countries has contributed substantially towards finding solutions to population problems.

110. One of the more successful technical co-operation among developing countries endeavours supported by UNFPA over the years has been a series of study tours for officials from various developing countries to Indonesia to observe Indonesia's highly successful family planning and population programme. This has led to the establishment of the International Training Programme within the Indonesia's National Family Planning Co-ordinating Board. Another notable success of the technical co-operation among developing countries modality is the Centre of Demographic Studies of the University of Havana in Cuba, which has developed into one of the leading demographic and research centres serving Latin America and the Caribbean. Other technical co-operation among developing countries endeavours supported by UNFPA include a graduate studies programme in demographics at the Centre for Regional Planning and Development at the University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, primarily for students from Portuguese-speaking countries in sub-Sahara in Africa, as well as fellowship and training programmes at the Population and Research Unit of the League of Arab States.

V. CONCLUSION

111. In 1984, it seemed as if the rate of population growth was slowing everywhere except in Africa and parts of South Asia. The world's population seemed set to stabilize at around 10.2 billion towards the end of the twenty-first century. Today, however, the situation looks less promising. Progress in reducing birth rates has been slower than expected and the quality of life in many countries has worsened rather than improved. At present the human race numbers some 5.3 billion, of whom about 1 billion live in poverty.

112. Current United Nations projections give little cause for optimism. The 1984 medium projection for the year 2100 has been revised upwards to 11 billion, an increase of 800 million over the earlier estimate. In 15 countries - 13 of them in Africa - birth rates actually rose between 1960-1965 and 1980-1985. In another 23 countries the birth rate fell by less than 2 per cent during the same period.

113. The quality of human life is inseparable from the quality of the environment. It is increasingly clear that both are inseparable from the question of human numbers and their concentrations. Population is always part of the environment equation: for any given type of technology, for any given level of consumption or waste, or for any given level of poverty or inequality, the more people there are, the greater is their impact on the environment. Two areas of impact currently pose the greatest threat to human welfare and survival: degradation of the soils and forests of developing countries, and global warming. Population growth and distribution play a key role in each.

114. One of the clearest lessons of the past two decades of work in the field of population is that investments in human resource development - for example, improvements in women's status and access to education, health care and means of family planning - not only improve the quality of life but are also the quickest way to reduce population growth rates. Investments in human resources also provide a firm base for rapid economic development and could have a significant impact on the environmental crisis.

115. The key to success is immediate action to widen people's options. The key to widening people's options is reduced population growth. The higher the total population, the fewer the options. The longer the delay in taking decisive action, the more options close up. Lower future populations thus are not a goal in themselves, but a means to a far more important end - improving the lives of present and future generations. The lower the eventual population total, the more freedom of choice for future generations.

116. Experience has shown that population programmes can be successful. Success in the future may be defined as achieving the goals adopted by consensus at last year's International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. This will require doubling overall programme resources by the year 2000. It will also require programme efforts in harmony with the cultural and social settings in which they work, and careful monitoring of their effects.

117. Population issues cut across all social and economic development sectors. The degradation of the earth's land, water and air; massive increases in the consumption of energy; the persistence of widespread poverty and deprivation; the extraordinary pace of urban growth; and rapid increases in population are different aspects of a continuing crisis. They interact with each other, and action is needed in all areas to secure a sustainable future.

118. UNFPA believes that restoring impetus to development demands immediate action in at least four major areas:

(a) A shift in development priorities towards the social sectors;

(b) A direct and all-out attack on poverty itself;

(c) A shift to cleaner technologies, energy efficiency and resource conservation by all countries, but especially by the richer quarter of the world's population;

(d) Reductions in overall rates of population growth, especially in the countries with the highest rates of growth.

119. The choices of the next decade will determine the shape of the twenty-first century. They will not be easy, but they should not be refused. They offer an opportunity to widen the range of choice for those who come after us, perhaps to decide the future of the earth as a home for human beings. It is an opportunity no one can afford to miss.